



08-04

**COUNCILMEMBER DONNA FRYE**  
**Council District Six**  
**City of San Diego**

**M E M O R A N D U M**

**DATE:** January 14, 2008  
**TO:** Honorable City Councilmembers  
**FROM:** Councilmember Frye *Donna Frye*  
**SUBJECT:** Charter Review Recommendations

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As we move forward with the discussion regarding amending the City's Charter, it is critical to allow the public and City Council ample time to respond to the Mayor's Charter Review recommendations. Vitally important issues such as auditor independence and an appropriate balance of power between the legislative and executive bodies should be carefully considered and thoroughly vetted before this body takes any action. As such, the following are my recommendations for Charter changes:

**City Auditor:** The City Auditor must be independent from management, both in fact and appearance. While I prefer an elected City Auditor, if it is determined that the City Auditor will be an appointed position, it is critical that the Mayor/management should **not** be involved in the appointment or selection process. Also, to ensure auditor independence, the ballot language should state that City Auditor shall hire/fire his/her own staff with no management interference and all audit staff shall report only to the City Auditor. I support placing this issue on the June 2008 ballot with recommended changes.

**Audit Committee:** The Audit Committee must be independent from management, both in fact and appearance. Neither the Mayor nor his staff should be involved in the appointment or selection process of the Audit Committee members. I support placing this issue on the June 2008 ballot with recommended changes.

**Veto Override:** Requiring a 75% city council majority to override a mayoral veto is not reasonable and allows the executive branch of government too much power. The number of votes required for a mayoral veto override should remain at five (5) until such time as the public votes in 2010 to determine if the strong mayor form of government should be made permanent. I do not support placing this issue on the June 2008 ballot.

**Making Strong Mayor Permanent (Sunset Provision)**: Allow the five-year trial period to run its course. Do not support placing on June 2008 ballot, and instead, support placing on ballot in 2010, at which time the public shall vote on whether to make strong mayor permanent and if so determined:

- support adding one additional member to city council for a total of nine council members
  - require that Redistricting Commission meet after 2010 census is complete to establish new ninth council district
  - require 6 votes to override a mayoral veto after ninth councilmember is elected
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